

Subsection 2.—Infantile and Maternal Mortality.

In recent years a great part of the energy devoted by the medical profession and sanitarians to effect a decline in the death rate has gone to reduce infantile mortality, and in this field a large measure of success has been attained. In Canada, the Dominion, provincial, and municipal health authorities have all taken part in the struggle to reduce infantile mortality, and usually, in the absence of epidemics, each year is showing an improvement. In the seventeen years for which the figures are available there is evident a very considerable decline in infantile mortality, although the rate for 1937 shows an increase over 1936. In 1921 the infant death rate for Canada (using figures from provincial sources for Quebec) was 102 per 1,000 live births. This rate had been reduced to 76 in 1937. Table 23 gives figures for the whole of Canada for the years 1931 to 1937 and averages for the five-year periods 1921-25, 1926-30, and 1931-35. The infantile mortality in Quebec, which has exceeded that of any other province in the past, was below that of New Brunswick in 1937. A study of the Quebec rates shows that steady improvement has been made in the eleven-year period during which the province has been included in the registration area. In Canada as a whole almost 7,000 infant lives were preserved in 1937 which, under conditions prevailing in 1926, would probably have been lost.

23.—Infantile Mortality, by Provinces, together with the Rates per 1,000 Live Births, 1931-37, with Averages for 1921-25, 1926-30, and 1931-35.

Year.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada. ¹
A.—INFANT DEATHS.										
Averages, 1921-25.....	151	1,139	1,165	2	5,916	1,394	1,789	1,327	621	2
Averages, 1926-30.....	122	934	1,039	10,518	5,091	1,031	1,559	1,195	571	22,060
Averages, 1931-35.....	131	840	857	7,756	3,962	835	1,261	998	464	17,104
1931.....	128	914	944	9,443	4,833	924	1,463	1,197	514	20,360
1932.....	132	849	774	7,744	4,133	836	1,321	997	477	17,263
1933.....	118	791	821	7,270	3,904	844	1,231	966	439	16,284
1934.....	130	807	878	7,388	3,523	734	1,093	891	426	15,870
1935.....	145	838	866	6,939	3,515	837	1,194	936	460	15,730
1936.....	137	781	806	6,220	3,416	779	1,030	940	465	14,574
1937.....	152	812	1,072	7,580	3,382	826	1,245	994	630	16,693

B.—INFANT DEATH RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Averages, 1921-25.....	77	94	105	2	83	84	83	86	61	1
Averages, 1926-30.....	71	85	101	127	74	72	73	75	55	93
Averages, 1931-35.....	87	73	82	98	61	61	62	60	46	75
1931.....	68	79	87	113	70	64	69	69	49	85
1932.....	65	73	72	94	62	59	63	59	47	73
1933.....	61	71	82	93	60	63	61	60	46	73
1934.....	67	71	86	97	57	55	55	55	43	72
1935.....	72	72	83	92	56	63	61	58	46	71
1936.....	69	66	77	83	55	61	54	60	44	66
1937.....	73	70	101	100	55	64	67	63	56	76

¹ Exclusive of the Territories.

² Quebec was not included in the registration area prior to 1926.

Infantile Mortality by Causes of Death.—Twenty-one principal causes of death accounted in the years 1926 to 1937 for between 91 and 92 p.c. of the infantile mortality experienced in the Dominion, as is shown in Table 24. It is noteworthy that four causes present at birth, *viz.*, premature birth, injury at birth, congenital debility, and congenital malformations, accounted for over 40 p.c. of the infant